

RURAL DISTRICT OF THEDWASTRE.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Thedwastre Rural District Council.

14TH JANUARY, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Sixth Annual Report on the Health of the District, for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

Vital Statistics.

I have estimated the population of this District to the middle of 1909 as 8840, and have based the following statistics on that figure.

Birth Rate 22.3 per 1000. The number of Births registered during the year was 198 (boys 104, girls 94), which gives a Birth Rate of 22.3 per 1000; compared with 24.6 last year, and an average for the previous 10 years of 25.7, (see Table I); 13 of these Births were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate for the East Stow District was 26.3 per 1000.

Death Rate 10.9 per 1000. There were 84 Deaths registered in the District during the year (males 43, females 41); 7 paupers who died in the Union Workhouse belonged to the District, and also 6 of the patients who died in the County Asylum, and these added to the above gives a total of 97, which is equal to a Death Rate of 10.9 per 1000, compared with 15.0 last year, and an average of 14.4 for the previous 10 years. (See Tables I and II).

The Death Rate for the East Stow District was 12.3 per 1000.

Infant Mortality 80 per 1000 Births. Of the total number of Deaths, 16 were of infants under 1 year of age; this gives an Infant Mortality of 80 per 1000 Births, compared with 82 last year, and an average of 79 for the previous 10 years. (See Tables I and V).

The Infant Mortality for the East Stow District was 71.

Zymotic Death Rate 0.7 per 1000. There were 7 Deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases during the year, which gives a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.7 per 1000; last year this Death Rate was nil.

This Rate for the East Stow District was nil.

Other Deaths. Amongst the other Deaths (see Table IV.) occurring during the year were: 8 from Phthisis, compared with 10 last year; 1 only from Cancer, compared with 12 last year; 6 from Diseases of the Respiratory organs, compared with 30 last year; 16 from Heart Disease, compared with 23 last year; and as last year 2 were caused by accident, and 2 were suicidal.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 17 notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year, compared with 18 last year, and 20 the year before. (See Table III).

The cases were as follows:—

Diphtheria 4 ; compared with 1 last year.

Erysipelas 5 ; compared with 8 last year.

Scarlet Fever 6 ; compared with 9 last year ; and 1 case each of Enteric and Puerperal Fever.

This is the first case of Enteric Fever reported for four years.

The cases of Diphtheria occurred in the villages of Beyton and Wattisfield ; the cases of Erysipelas, at Felsham, Walsham-le-Willows and Ashfield ; the cases of Scarlet Fever at Tostock, Drinkstone, and Thurston ; the case of Enteric Fever at Drinkstone, and the case of Puerperal Fever at Langham.

Phthisis (P. H. Tuberculosis Act 1908).

Five notifications of Phthisis were received from this District during the year, viz. : 4 from Norton and 1 from Thurston.

This District consists of 20 Villages, scattered over a large area, and is purely agricultural.

Water Supply.

The Sub-soil is mostly heavy clay, ponds are common and are largely used for domestic purposes ; drinking water is obtained chiefly from shallow wells, and a few deep wells in the chalk ; several of the Villages have a public supply under the control of the Council, viz. :—Ashfield, Beyton, Drinkstone, Elmwell, Hinderclay, Rattlesden, Rickinghall and Woolpit.

House Accommodation. The house accommodation for the working classes is on the whole very unsatisfactory, the cottages being in the large majority of cases damp and ill ventilated, with only 2 bedrooms ; so that frequent cases of overcrowding occur. These are very difficult to deal with satisfactorily.

Sanitary arrangements. Privy vaults are the usual form of sanitary accommodation, and are a fruitful source of evils, chief amongst them being the pollution of the water supply.

Notices, &c. Notices were served on owners or occupiers in respect to nuisances connected with 9 houses in the district and all but 1 have been complied with ; and 1 nuisance, notified in last report as not having been abated, has been remedied this year.

Details as to these notices, &c. will be found under the heading of the separate villages.

Cow Sheds and Dairies. The Dairies and Cowsheds in the District were inspected during the year, and were reported to be in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition, and with ample air-space.

Factory Act. There are few factories and workshops in the District coming under the Factories and Workshops Act ; these are in a satisfactory condition.

The following details have reference to the various Villages in the District, the numbers in brackets refer to the population at the last census, and the area in acres.

ASHFIELD MAGNA (375 ; 1548).

There were 9 Births, compared with 10 last year.

There were 3 Deaths, compared with 10 last year ; one was of an infant under 1 year of age, and 1 was due to an accident.

One case of Erysipelas was notified from this village, and 1 case of Enteric Fever was moved from the village into the Union Workhouse, and died there ; in connection with this case the clothes and bedding were filthy and were burnt, and the house thoroughly cleaned.

BADWELL ASH (356 ; 1543).

There were 14 Births, compared with 8 last year ; 3 of these Births were illegitimate, rather a large proportion.

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 12 last year ; 3 of these were of infants under 1, 1 was of a person over 80, and 1 of a child was caused by measles.

As last year, no notification of Infectious Diseases was received ; this makes the fifth year in succession that this has occurred in this village.

BEYTON (351 ; 644).

There were 9 Births, compared with 7 last year ; 1 Birth was illegitimate.

There were 3 Deaths, compared with 4 last year ; 2 were of infants under 1, and the other of a person over 87 years of age.

One case of Diphtheria was notified from this Village.

The P. Vault in connection with 3 cottages was reported as in a filthy state, the owner was served with notice to clean it out. The P. Vault in connection with 2 other cottages was dilapidated, and the owner served with notice to re-construct same; all these nuisances have been abated.

A case of overcrowding was reported, a family of 10 living in 2 small bedrooms; in this case the owner had to be served with notice, as milder measures were found to be useless; and in the end 2 of the children were sent out to sleep, and the occupiers have promised to get a larger cottage when possible, but that seems to be a doubtful possibility.

The Public Pump had to be repaired during the year.

DRINKSTONE (382; 2196).

There were 4 Births, compared with 6 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 1 last year; 1 was of a person over 70, and the other was due to Phthisis.

One case of Enteric Fever, and 2 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified from this Village.

The case of Enteric Fever was probably imported.

ELMSWELL (858; 2089).

There were 20 Births, compared with 24 Births last year; 1 Birth was illegitimate.

There were 11 Deaths, compared with 13 last year; 7 were of persons over 70 years of age.

The drains in connection with 1 house in the village were reported as defective; the owner was served with notice to re-construct and convert Privy Vault into Pail Closet, and this has been done. A nuisance was caused by the public sewer emptying into a ditch by side of a footpath.

FELSHAM (363; 1654).

There were 9 Births, compared with 8 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with none last year; 1 was caused by Phthisis, and 1 was of a person over 77 years of age.

1 case of Erysipelas was reported from this village and the cottage where it occurred was reported as having very dirty surroundings.

GEDDING (97; 494).

There were 6 Births, compared with 3 last year; 1 Birth was illegitimate.

There were no Deaths, the same as last year.

No Infectious Diseases were notified from this village.

HESSETT (381; 1604).

There were 10 Births, compared with 5 last year; 1 of these Births was illegitimate.

There was 1 Death, compared with 7 last year; a person over 82 years of age.

No Infectious Diseases were notified.

A nuisance was caused in this village by the privy vaults in connection with 3 cottages overflowing into a ditch. The owners were served with notices to re-construct privy vaults and abate nuisances, and this has been done.

HINDERCLAY (261; 1488).

There were 5 Births, compared with 2 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 3 last year; 1 was of an infant under 1, and the other of a person over 83.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

HUNSTON (127; 960).

There was one Birth, compared with 2 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 1 last year; one was of a person over 75 years of age.

No notifications of Infectious Diseases were received.

LANGHAM (154; 970).

There were 3 Births, compared with 2 last year.

There was 1 Death, (of an infant under 1 year of age), compared with 2 last year.

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified from this village; in connection with this case the drains were found to be blocked, and after the owner had been served with the usual notice, the nuisance was abated.

NORTON (742; 246).

There were 11 Births, compared with 23 last year; 1 of the Births was illegitimate.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 10 last year; 2 were of persons over 70 years of age, and 2 were caused by Phthisis

No notifications of Infectious Diseases were reported.

Three cottages were reported as in a filthy state, and the owners were served with notice to clean up and repair same; after a little delay the cottages were cleaned and repaired.

RATTLESDEN (894; 3299).

There were 23 Births, compared with 35 last year; 1 was illegitimate.

There were 9 Deaths, compared with 15 last year; 4 were of persons over 30 years of age, 1 was caused by an accident.

No Infectious Diseases were notified.

RICKINGHALL INFERIOR (381; 1981).

There were 6 Births, compared with 11 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 5 last year; 1 was suicidal.

No Infectious Diseases were notified.

STOWLANGTOFT (158; 1478).

There were 2 Births, compared with 5 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with none last year; 1 was of a person over 74 years of age.

No Infectious Diseases were notified.

THURSTON (600; 2223).

There were 11 Births, compared with the same number last year; 2 were illegitimate.

There were 6 Deaths, compared with 9 last year; 1 was of an infant under 1 year of age, and 4 were of persons over 75.

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified from this village.

TOSTOCK (286; 952).

There were 10 Births, compared with 5 last year; one was illegitimate.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 5 last year; one was of an infant under 1 year of age, and the other was suicidal.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified from this village, in 2 families.

A ditch was so filthy near a cottage as to create a nuisance, and had to be cleaned out.

A Privy Vault in connection with a cottage was converted into a Pail Closet, and the drains in connection with another cottage were blocked, and these were cleaned out after the owner had been served with a notice.

WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS (1038; 2817).

There were 23 Births, compared with 24 last year

There were 9 Deaths, compared with 11 last year; 5 were of infants under 1, 4 were of persons over 70; 1 was due to Measles and 1 to Phthisis.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified from this village.

The P. vaults connected with 5 cottages were in a filthy state, and notice was served to clean same; this has been done.

The drains of 2 cottages were defective and untrapped, the owner was served with notice and the necessary work has since been carried out.

Owing to an outbreak of measles, the schools were closed for some time.

The slaughter house was visited, and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

WATTISFIELD (408; 1530).

There were 7 Births, compared with the same number last year.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 5 last year; 2 were of infants under 1 year of age, 1 was of a person over 86 years; 1 was caused by Whooping Cough, and 2 were due to Diphtheria.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified, in two families, and unfortunately 2 of these died.

The School was closed on account of the outbreak of Diphtheria.

WOOLPIT (863; 1881).

There were 12 Births, compared with 20 last year; 1 was illegitimate.

There were 8 Deaths, compared with 9 last year; 2 were of infants under 1 year, and 1 other was of a person over 70. One was due to an accident, and 1 to Phthisis.

No Infectious Diseases were notified, and no nuisances reported during the year.

General Remarks.

The Birth Rate of the District is still declining, whilst the illegitimate Birth Rate is rather high.

The Death rate this year is remarkably low, and is partly due to the very mild winter.

The Zymotic Death Rate is higher than usual, all these Deaths, viz:—7 occurred in the Walsham Sub-District, and equal a Death Rate of 1.5 per 1000 for that District, which is very excessive for a Rural District.

The Infant Mortality is rather higher than it ought to be.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, and to thank the Chairman and Members for the considerate manner in which they have received my suggestions during the year.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. W. LOW, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I shows the estimated population, and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table II contrasts the Two Sub-Districts.

Table III shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to age.

Table IV shows the causes of, and ages at Death during the year.

Table V gives the details of the Infant Mortality.

Table VI refers to the Factories Act.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		Number	Rate.*
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 yr. of age	Rate per 1,000 Births registrd.	At all Ages.	Number		Number	Rate.*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	9155	250	27.1	21	84	111	12.1		10	121	13.2	
1900	9115	241	26.4	10	41	124	13.5		10	134	14.6	
1901	9055	255	28.1	18	70	122	13.4		13	135	14.9	
1902	9015	217	24.0	32	147	152	16.8		3	155	17.1	
1903	8975	254	28.5	13	51	98	10.9		2	100	11.1	
1904	8935	202	22.6	17	85	144	16.2		7	151	16.8	
1905	8895	238	26.7	23	96	138	15.5		6	144	16.0	
1906	8885	241	27.1	15	62	114	12.6		10	124	14.0	
1907	8865	195	21.9	14	75	104	11.7		5	108	12.2	
1908	8855	218	24.6	18	82	122	13.7		10	132	15.0	
Averages for years 1899-1908			25.7		79		13.6		7		14.4	
1909	8840	198	22.3	16	80	84	9.5		13	97	10.9	

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. 34126.

Total Population at all ages at Census of 1901 9075.

Number of inhabited houses 2113.

Average number of persons per house 4.7.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1909 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	RATTLESDEN SUB-DISTRICT.					WALSHAM SUB-DISTRICT.				
	YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year. a.	Births registered. b.	Deaths at all Ages. c.	Deaths under 1 yr. d.	Population estimated to middle of each year. a.	Births registered. b.	Deaths at all Ages. c.	Deaths under 1 yr. d.	
1905 ..	4129	115	68	10		4756	123	76	13	
1906 ..	4129	129	59	6		4756	112	65	9	
1907 ..	4129	90	52	7		4756	105	56	7	
1908 ..	4129	100	51	8		4756	118	71	10	
1909 ..	4129	97	33	6		4756	101	51	10	

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria	4	1	2	1		
Erysipelas	5				4	1
Scarlet Fever	6	2	4			
Enteric Fever	1	1				
Puerperal Fever	1				1	
Totals	17	4	6	1	5	1

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring in or beyond the District.					
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards
Measles	2		1	1		
Whooping-cough	1	1				
Diphtheria	2		1	1		
Enteric Fever	1				1	
Diarrhoea	1	1				
Phthisis	8				7	1
Cancer	1					1
Bronchitis	5	1			1	3
Pneumonia	1	1				
Premature Birth	3	3				
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2	2				
Heart Diseases	16				8	8
Accidents	2		1		1	
Suicides	2				2	
All other causes	50	7	2	1	10	30
All causes	97	16	5	3	30	43

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES certified	5	3	8	2	1	1	1	1	1	16
,, uncertified							1			
Whooping Cough								1		1
Diarrhoea, all forms				1						1
Premature Birth	2	2								2
Congenital Defects	1	1			1					2
Injury at Birth	2		2							2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2		2	1	1					4
Bronchitis							1	1		2
Other Causes	1		1				1			2

Population estimated to middle of 1909	..	..	..	8840.
Births in the year	{	legitimate ..	..	185.
	{	illegitimate ..	..	13.
Deaths in the year of	{	legitimate infants ..	..	14.
	{	illegitimate infants ..	..	2.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages	..	..	..	97.

TABLE VI.
Factory 1. Workshops 4.
Defects 1. (Want of Ventilation) Remedied.